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Unless You Give Me What I Require



👁 31 ✓ 0 ★ 3

Chapter 1 by JM

I remember waking up in a full-body sweat. The window behind my bed was open and freezing winter air had already filled the room, so the sweat felt like little drops of ice against my skin.

I remember hearing the shrill sirens of emergency vehicles. They were coming closer.

I remember struggling to breathe. The air felt dry in my nostrils, and it bore the smell of smoke.

I remember hearing the scrape of someone's shoe against my floor. I remember feeling someone's hands grasp my face. Their mouth was so close to my ear that I could feel their breath creating a small patch of warmth right beneath my earlobe.

I remember what the person whispered. "Your house is on fire. Your family will die. Unless you give me what I require."

I remember being disgusted by their request. I remember wanting to refuse.

I don't remember what, exactly, they asked of me. I don't remember agreeing to their terms.

Yet, I did.

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I have two hours to save my family, and I don't know how to begin.

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